



ROBERTS MINISTRY UPDATE

April 2013

Hello from Zambia!

A lot has happened since we first landed in Zambia and we thought you would like to see just how well your financial support and prayers are being invested into the lives of our dear friends here. Please take a minute to get up-to-date with all that is happening with our family and ministry!

Leadership Development

To date, we have been heavily involved in developing local leaders in several different areas. Brent has a weekly discipleship group with 10 Tonga men.



These same men have been growing and have recently begun helping us with our outreach programs; Kerri and Elise have begun a monthly Ladies' Tea with the farm workers and have taken on leading a Bible study group with some of the wives of the commercial farmers. Brent and Luke have been hosting monthly men's barbecues directed at reaching out to our friends in the commercial farming community.

Community Development



Over the past year, Luke and Brent have conducted 4 different field days for

Foundations for Farming and have planted over 15 demonstration plots (some of which are on local commercial farms and others which are located at our rural ministry center in the village of Ngangula). Through these field days, over 200 Zambians have received training in farming, composting and gardening from a Biblical perspective. The plots have provided much needed credibility to our agricultural program producing an estimated 10,000 lbs of corn per hectare (over 3 times the national average)!

Mercy Ministries

Our ministry, Eleeo Project, is currently piloting a nutrition project



using Phytomatrix. We hope this daily nutritional supplement can be used to combat malnutrition affecting the hundred's of thousands of children in Southern Zambia. The initial results have been promising. We are also near the end of our planning phase for putting in a new community water well in Ngangula. This well will service over 2,000 of Ngangula's residents with clean drinking water.



Outreach



Over the past 12 months, we have held various Jesus Film outreaches which have been attended by over 1,000 local Tongas. These showings have been conducted in strategic areas where we hope to deepen our relationships within the communities. This past year also saw the addition of outreach to extremely remote fishing villages on Lake Kariba. The Tongas who live on the shores of this lake are extremely unreached yet the Lord seems to be doing a big work in their communities. These boat trips are potentially huge for future outreaches as well as church and community development.



Church Planting/Strengthening



Our desire is to help plant and grow existing churches that are not defined within the four walls of a building, but rather are visible in the community as the hands and feet of Jesus. God has recently opened doors for our greater involvement in the leadership of the local community church we attend (Mazabuka Community Church). Both Brent

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and Luke have been asked to officially join the leadership team of the church as elders. This will allow us to better serve both the Tonga people and the local white farming community as a whole. We pray that it will also provide a larger platform for growing and planting new community churches inclusive of both people groups.

Short-Term Teams



We have always felt the tremendous importance of having western churches and parachurch organizations partner with us in ministry in Zambia. In the last year we have had the honor of hosting several teams and individuals here in Chikankata. Visitors have participated in the distribution of aid, community health, Jesus Film Outreach, Ministry Center development, construction of a drilling rig and of course bringing the "Good News".



Short-Term Team Construction



Eleeo Project has spent a large portion of this past year developing the infrastructure to host such teams. These facilities include a bunk house, shower and toilet facility and outdoor dining area. With these additions, Eleeo Project can now comfortably host teams of up to 12 people.



Our Family

It's very comforting to be able to say that you're right where God wants you! Even though life here is sometimes difficult, we all love our new home in



Chikankata. The kids have been doing great. They are all progressing in school and love just getting outside and playing and exploring the farm where we live. As you can tell from the update, the whole family is involved in ministry, which is definitely a plus! And we're really thankful for the many new friends that we have made here. Chikankata finally feels like home!

Prayer Requests:

As you can see, we've been pretty busy and there's still a lot more work to be done. Please be in prayer for us over these next several months. Specifically, you can pray for:

+ **Construction.** We are trying to complete all of the facilities for hosting short-term teams by the end of June of this year.

+ **Leadership.** Pray for us as we make the transition into eldership with Mazabuka Community Church. Pray that we will serve this church and community in a manner worthy of the call God has placed on us and that this new opportunity will increase the reach of our ministry here in Zambia.

+ **Home Visit.** Kerri will be flying back to the States June 20th - July 17th. Pray for safe travel and for Brent and kids as they try to manage without her for 4 weeks.

+ **Outreach.** Brent and some of the kids will be participating in an outreach on Lake Kariba in July. Pray that God will raise up Zambian leaders in these remote fishing villages that they will be visiting.

+ **Car Repair.** We've just learned that we will need to replace the transmission in our family car. In addition to this, there is a laundry list of other things that must be fixed. Pray for finances for this overhaul.

+ **Faith.** Pray that God would continue to stretch and grow us up in our faith so that we and our children can know Him more intimately and share Him with others.

Thank you so much for being part of the work here in Zambia through your continued prayers and financial sacrifice. We truly couldn't do what we do without you standing with us.

Love,
The Roberts Family

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